Conversion of towns into IT Hubs

2977. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert small cities, towns into IT hubs;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this decision;

(c) the towns to be coverted; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Government does not propose to convert small cities, towns into IT Hubs. Software Technology Parks of India, a society under Department of Information Technology offers High Speed Data Communication facility to Software exporting and service sector units, wherever there is a genuine need.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quality services by Telecom Operators

2978. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the TRAI has recently warned the leading telecom operators who have failed to provide quality services to customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the survey reports conducted by Government in this regard; and

(d) the concrete plans formulated to ensure qualitative services by the telecom operators throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government has not conducted any survey recently.

(d) The results of the values of Quality of Service parameters submitted by the service providers are widely published and put on Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's website so as to make the consumers aware about the quality of service providers. This helps the consumers in selecting their service providers with better quality of service. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through a process of interaction with service providers attempts to ensure compliance of the regulation.

Tele-density in the country

†2979. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge discrepancy is found in availability of telephone services in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of telephone available out of the hundred persons in urban and rural areas in each State during 2002; and

(c) the percentage of villages where direct exchange line was available till December, 2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there is a difference in the availability of telephone services in urban and rural areas of the country. The number of telephones available to persons out of hundred persons in urban and rural areas of each State of the country as on 31.12.2002 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The percentage of villages where direct exchange lines through Village Public Telephones(VPT) has been available in each State of the country till December 2002 is given in Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.